



HIGH SCHOOL ENTRANCE EXAMINATION BOARD
DEPARTMENTAL EXAMINATIONS, 1938
GRADE IX

ENGLISH
LITERATURE

Time—1½ hours.

Note—Most of the selections in this paper you have probably not seen before. Read them carefully and answer the questions to the best of your ability.

Secunda

Values

- 5 1. The barefooted peasant girl drew her shawl closer about her tired face. Brown eyes, which had once been merry, stared wearily at the long dirt road which led to her distant home. The coolness of an autumn night chilled her bare legs as the northern Italian skies quickly darkened. The basket on one tired arm was growing heavier with every step.
- (a) The author wishes to emphasize Secunda's:
 (1) beauty (2) weariness (3) happiness
 (4) loneliness (5) age. ()
- (b) Which *two* adjectives seem best to describe Secunda's parents?
 (1) poor (2) stingy (3) hard-working ()
 (4) well-to-do (5) vain (6) extravagant. ()
- (c) The night was: (1) bitterly cold (2) balmy
 (3) damp (4) chilly (5) warm. ()
- (d) On her feet Secunda wore (1) wooden shoes
 (2) sandals (3) worn-out boots (4) nothing. ()
- 3 2. E'en as he was speaking
 There came from the sea speeding
 A very small boat gliding
 Before the waves a-riding;
 And women twain within it
 Wondrously attired,
 And they raised up Arthur anon,
 And aboard rapidly bore him,
 And adown softly they set him,
 And forth went they sailing.
- (a) Arthur: (1) stepped into the boat (2) was left ashore (3) waded out to the boat (4) was carried aboard. ()
- (b) When first mentioned the boat was: (1) approaching the land (2) becalmed (3) running parallel to the shore (4) leaving the shore. ()
- (c) When the boat came in, there were in it (1) three fishermen (2) two women (3) a sea captain (4) two mermaids. ()

- 4 3. A bird twittered! The morning sun shining through the open window was apparently more potent than the cool mountain air, which had only caused the sleeper to curl a little more tightly in his blankets. Barker's eyes opened instantly upon the light and the bird on the window ledge. Like all healthy young animals, he would have tried to sleep again, but with his momentary consciousness came the recollection that it was *his* turn to cook the breakfast that morning, and he regretfully rolled out of the bunk to the floor.

(a) "Barker" was: (1) a young dog (2) a sickly old man (3) a bird (4) a young man. ()

(b) Barker was aroused by: (1) the morning sun (2) the shadow of the bird (3) the cool air (4) the smell of breakfast cooking. ()

(c) Barker had been sleeping probably (1) in a dog kennel (2) in a cabin in the country (3) in a railway train (4) in a city residence. ()

(d) He got out of bed (1) gladly (2) eagerly (3) reluctantly (4) spryly. ()

- 6 4. Clear-cut images, simply, directly, and beautifully expressed, are highly desirable in poetry. The four stanzas below present much the same picture of sunrise. Read them and decide which is the best description and which is the poorest.

(a) Clad in crimson garments the freshly up-
sprung sun
Flings his flaming mantle over the country-
side.

(b) Behold, the sun in crimson robes
Walks lightly o'er the eastern hills.

(c) Night with her sombre robes has fled, the day,
With dew-flecked mantle flowing, comes along.

(d) Look how the sun in rosy mantle clad
Walks o'er the dew on yon high eastern hills.

The best is ()

The poorest is ()

- 9 5. There is no insect better known and more hated than the mosquito. The male mosquito is a peaceful creature, a poet in his small way, for his mouth is made for sucking nothing stronger than honey. He neither bites nor buzzes. A very ladylike person. Not so his wife! Mrs. Mosquito's mouth is made for a deadly purpose, and she is so literally blood-thirsty that she will drink until she is swollen to the point that she can hardly lift the red bag of her body on her frail wings. What is more than this, she squirts poison into the bites she makes to keep the blood flowing freely past her beak—so afraid she's going to miss something! But almost the worst thing about this gluttonous lady is her song, piped through her many breathing holes. Yet there is one thing to say for the female mosquito: she has to lay thousands of eggs, which would be a great drain on anybody. To enable her to do this she found that she could keep up her strength better on blood than on the watery sap of plants, and that all she had to do to get this nourishing red broth, was to stab her beak into an animal instead of a tree. She has used her brains. She is efficient.
- (a) The male mosquito (1) bites (2) buzzes (3) sucks honey (4) sings (5) fights. ()
- (b) The lady mosquito is said to be (1) a blood-thirsty person (2) very ladylike (3) a silent lady (4) a stupid person. ()
- (c) The "red bag" spoken of is (1) a spider's nest (2) an ant's egg (3) a sack of nectar (4) the lady mosquito's body. ()
- (d) The "song" of the mosquito comes from (1) the wings (2) breathing holes (3) the mouth (4) the nose (5) membrane on the legs. ()
- (e) The female mosquito shows her cleverness by (1) drinking water (2) tapping trees for sap (3) living on blood (4) laying eggs. ()
- (f) The one excuse the female mosquito has for her great appetite is that (1) she has to live (2) she loves blood (3) she has brains (4) she has to lay eggs. ()
- (g) The tone of this selections is (1) serious (2) spiteful (3) humorous (4) sarcastic. ()
- (h) The author is probably (1) a scientist (2) a poet (3) a musician (4) a novelist. ()
- (i) This account of the mosquito seems to be (1) trivial (2) reliable (3) unfair absurd. ()

- 6 6. Read the three poems, (a), (b), (c), trying to think which is the most beautiful expression of the thought, and which is least beautiful. Indicate your two choices by letter in the brackets below.

- (a) And now the chilly mist came down
And faster fell the snow;
And ice-bergs white, a ghostly sight,
As green as grass did grow.
- (b) And now there came both mist and snow,
And it grew wondrous cold
And ice, mast-high, came floating by
As green as emerald.
- (c) Then O, there came the snow and mist;
The cold, was it intense!
Gigantic ice sailed by, I wist,
As green as moss on fence.

The most beautiful is ()

The least beautiful is ()

- 6 7. "Talk o' nimbleness, look at Mrs. Osgood," said Ben Winthrop, who was holding his son Aaron between his knees. "She trips along with her little steps, so as nobody can see how she goes; it's like as if she had little wheels to her feet. She doesn't look a day older nor last year; she's the finest-made woman as is, let the next be where she will."

- (a) The description of the lady refers chiefly to her: (1) dress (2) movements (3) voice (4) speech (5) thoughts. ()
- (b) What *three* adjectives would describe her most adequately: (1) powerful (2) graceful (3) awkward (4) tall (5) active (6) timid (7) well proportioned (8) frail? ()
- (c) Choose *two* adjectives that seem best to fit Mr. Winthrop's disposition: (1) spiteful (2) sullen (3) genial (4) humorous (5) domineering (6) courageous. ()

- 4 8. When I see birches bend to left and right
Across the line of straighter darker trees,
I like to think some boy's been swinging them.
But swinging doesn't bend them down to stay.
Ice-storms do that. Often you must have seen them
Loaded with ice a sunny winter morning
After a rain. They click upon themselves
As the breeze rises, and turn many-colored
As the stir cracks and crazes their enamel.

- (a) These lines describe: (1) boys climbing trees (2) a forest at night (3) an ice-storm (4) a rainy day (5) an oil painting. ()

- (b) Which line tells you that boys are not bending the trees? 1, 3, 4, 7, 9. ()
- (c) The phrase "cracks their enamel" means:
 (1) breaks their covering of ice (2) splits their bark (3) tears off the leaves (4) blows the snow off. ()
- (d) The enamel is cracked and crazed by: (1) the boys (2) the breeze (3) the heat (4) the cold (5) the rain. ()

- 6 9. In good poetry the sound of the words harmonizes with the thought expressed. The effect is called tone color. The three following stanzas tell of autumn leaves. Think of the sound of falling leaves, and then decide in which stanza the tone color is expressed:
 (1) most appropriately
 (2) least appropriately.

(a) Do you hear them?
 With thud, thud, thud,
 Like tread of thumping feet,
 The leaves come drumming down.

(b) Lo
 In the frosty air
 Snow-laden and misty,
 The leaves, by winter killed, break off
 And drop.

(c) Listen
 With faint dry sound
 Like steps of passing ghosts,
 The leaves, frost-crisped, break from the trees,
 And fall.

Most appropriate ()

Least appropriate ()

- 2 10. The fog comes
 on little cat feet.
 It sits looking
 over harbor and city
 on silent haunches
 and then moves on.

(a) This poem is describing: (1) a cat (2) a city (3) a fog (4) a dog (5) the sea. ()

(b) The impression it creates is one of:
 (1) hunger (2) sorrow (3) gladness (4) stealthiness (5) fear. ()

- 13 11. Read the following poems carefully (they are not complete poems), and answer the questions below:

(a) The king sits in Dumferling toune,
 Drinking the blude-reid wine:
 "O whar will I get guid sailor,
 To sail this schip of mine?"
 Up and spak an eldern knight,
 Sat at the kings right kne:
 "Sir Patrick Spence is the best sailor,
 That sails upon the se."

The king has written a braid letter,
 And signed it wi his hand,
 And sent it to Sir Patrick Spence,
 Was walking on the sand.

The first line that Sir Patrick red,
 A loud laugh laughed he;
 The next line that Sir Patrick red,
 The teir blinded his ee.

"O wha is this has don this deid,
 This ill deid don to me,
 To send me out this time o' the yeir,
 To sail upon the se!

(b) There lived a wife at Usher's Well,
 And a wealthy wife was she;
 She had three stout and stalwart sons,
 And sent them o'er the sea.

They hadna been a week from her,
 A week but barely ane,
 When word cam' to the carline wife
 That her three sons were gane.

They hadna been a week from her,
 A week but barely three,
 When word cam' to the carline wife
 That her sons she'd never see.

"I wish the wind may never cease,
 Nor fish be in the flood,
 Till my three sons come hame to me,
 In earthly flesh and blood!"

It fell about the Martinmas,
 When nights are lang and dark,
 The carline wife's three sons cam' hame,
 And their hats were o' the birk.

Some of the following statements are true of both the above poems. Read each statement carefully. If it is true of *both* poems, underline the word, YES; if not true, underline, NO.

- | | | |
|--|-----|----|
| (1) The language is simple. | YES | NO |
| (2) The story sometimes changes suddenly from narrative to dialogue. | YES | NO |

Values

(3) The ideas are abstract and are difficult to understand.	YES	NO
(4) The second and fourth lines of each stanza rhyme.	YES	NO
(5) Similarly the first and third lines rhyme.	YES	NO
(6) The different speakers are always indicated by name.	YES	NO
(7) The poems are humorous in tone.	YES	NO
(8) The first and third lines of each stanza have four accented syllables.	YES	NO
(9) Similarly the second and fourth lines have four accents.	YES	NO
(10) The story develops slowly and with a long introduction.	YES	NO
(11) There is a suggestion of some tragic event taking place, or about to take place.	YES	NO
(12) The poems deal with the fate of unfortunate lovers.	YES	NO
(13) The characters are persons of royal blood.	YES	NO

5 **12.** Perhaps the final test of anybody's love of dogs is willingness to permit them to make a camping-ground of his bed. There is no other place in the world that suits the dog quite so well. On the bed he is safe from being stepped upon; he is out of the way of drafts; he has a commanding position from which to survey what goes on in the world; and above all, the surface is soft and yielding to his out-stretched limbs. No mere man can ever be so comfortable as a dog looks.

- (a) Select *three* words to suggest the author's mood when he wrote this paragraph: ()
 (1) depressed (2) jovial (3) excited ()
 (4) playful (5) sarcastic (6) resigned ()
 (7) sullen (8) hysterical. ()
- (b) How does he establish his point that the bed is a good place for a dog? (1) he repeats the statement (2) he argues the right of the dog to be on the bed (3) he suggests advantages which the dog enjoys (4) he says beds are made for dogs. ()
- (c) How many reasons are given to justify the dog's privilege? 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. ()

[OVER]

- 6 13. Speak gently, Spring, and make no sudden sound;
For in my windy valley yesterday I found
New-born foxes squirming on the ground—
Speak gently.

Walk softly, March, forbear the bitter blow;
Her feet within a trap, her blood upon the snow,
The four little foxes saw their mother go—
Walk softly.

Go lightly, Spring, Oh, give them no alarm;
When I covered them with boughs to shelter them
from harm,
The thin blue foxes suckled at my arm—
Go lightly.

Step softly, March, with your rampant hurricane;
Nuzzling one another, and whimpering with pain,
The new little foxes are shivering in the rain—
Step softly.

- (a) The most expressive title for the poem would be (1) The Seasons (2) Four Little Foxes (3) Spring is on the Hillside (4) The Fox Hunt. ()
- (b) The sentiment expressed in the poem is that of (1) grief (2) hope (3) pity (4) hatred (5) reverence. ()
- (c) The style of the poem is best described by the word (1) humorous (2) intricate (3) vivid (4) gay (5) colorless. ()
- (d) The mother fox was (1) trapped (2) frozen (3) drowned (4) shot (5) frightened away. ()
- (e) What do you think became of the foxes? (1) they were taken by the writer (2) another fox adopted them (3) they perished of cold and hunger (4) they grew up by themselves. ()
- (f) The author has a keen sense of (1) the comedy of life (2) the mystery of life (3) the good qualities of foxes (4) the tragedy of life. ()